

CASH—INvariably in ADVANCE.  
The DAILY DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers  
at the rate of \$5 per week, payable to the carrier  
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For the WEEKLY DISPATCH at \$3 per annum  
in advance.  
The WEEKLY DISPATCH at \$2 per annum.

Richmond Dispatch.

THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH  
IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION  
OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWS  
PAPERS OF THE CITY.

SATURDAY.....NOVEMBER 16, 1878.

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, clear weather, following by increasing cloudiness and rain areas, warmer southeasterly winds, and falling barometer.  
For the South Atlantic States, warmer, partly cloudy weather, with rain, northeast veering to southeast winds, and falling barometer.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear, cool, and pleasant.  
THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 38; 9 A. M., 45; noon, 63; 3 P. M., 61; 6 P. M., 50; midnight, 41.  
Mean temperature, 69.

"Chester" on His Travels.

(Special Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, November 14, 1878.  
The United States Board of Trade, Manufacturers, Commerce, and Agriculture, met this morning at their first meeting at the Masonic Temple, had their inaugural dinner, and the new Fifth-Avenue dinner, which was a very successful one. The subscription price of tickets was \$10, not including wine. The affair was a grand one even for New York, where there is so much splendor. The dining-room was magnificent, the service superb. It is particularly rich in frescoes, heavy plate mirrors, and glistening chandeliers.

There were four tables. The Virginians I saw seated at the table were Major John W. Daniel, Messrs. John B. Davis, Charles Ellis, J. B. Gray, and Beverly Tucker, Mayor Tucker of Norfolk, and Mr. Ficklen of Fredericksburg. I believe they did full justice to the bill of fare—which was gotten up in the French style. I never saw a Bill-of-Fare so good and so well served. The affair was a grand one even for New York, where there is so much splendor. The dining-room was magnificent, the service superb. It is particularly rich in frescoes, heavy plate mirrors, and glistening chandeliers.

The following were the regular toasts: The President of the United States and his Cabinet. Postmaster James, of New York. The Army and Navy. General Anson G. McKee.

The American Bar. David Dudley Field. The Clergy. Rev. Dr. Newman. The Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, and other Commercial Bodies in America. Hon. C. I. Filler, of St. Louis.

The Relation of Commerce to Politics. John W. Swan, Brooklyn. Reciprocity in Trade between all Nations. Hon. Nathan Appleton, of Boston.

A Currency Honorable to the Nation and Convenient for the People. Judge Peabody. Agriculture—the Backbone of the Body Politic. The United States Commissioner of the Currency.

American Shipping. W. H. Guion. The Press. G. W. C. Clarke. Mr. Clark Bell presided.

One of the episodes of the evening was the attempt of "our mutual friend Frank Moulton" to sandwich a volunteer speech in the midst of the regular toasts. Frank Moulton is a man who is very much inclined to be red. On this occasion the wine seemed to have acted upon him with peculiar effect. It was only by the determination of the chairman that he was suppressed.

The Rev. Mr. Newman, who responded to the toast of "The Clergy," was well known to the country as the friend and spiritual adviser of General Grant. Some years ago the General, having laid in an ample supply of advice, sent Mr. Newman travelling all over the world as inspector of consulates.

The reverend gentleman speaks well. On this occasion he took the opportunity to say that he "deplored sectional strife." It was his opinion "that the merchants of America will, after all, be the great unifiers."

In this connection he stated that on the banks of the upper Esplanade he met a caravan of three hundred camels loaded with merchandise, most of it American produce, put up in five-gallon casks. He further said that American petroleum now lights the Garden of Eden, Baghdad, and Damascus; the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, the Church of the Ascension on Mount Olivet, and even the Pyramids of Egypt, and his conclusion was that "America is the light of the world."

Judge John A. Meredith was put on the printed programme to respond to the toast "Relation of Commerce to Politics," but as he was not present that toast was dropped.

Near the close of the entertainment the chairman proposed "Virginia and her Sea-ports," and called upon Mayor Tucker to respond. That he did. His speech was one of the best—I may say indeed that it was the best—of the evening. He spoke of the liberality of the North to the suffering and the generosity of the South, and declared that that had closed the bloody chapter effectually, and as for us of the South, "the war is over."

Major John W. Daniel would have been assigned to duty in Judge Meredith's place, but having just arrived in the city and being tired he would not consent.

Altogether the dinner was a very pleasant one. The New Yorkers halted in no duty which their place as hosts imposed upon them.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH-YARD-STEWART'S GRAVE.  
The latest attraction in New York is St. Mark's church-yard. It is at the corner of Second Avenue and Tenth Street, and is a cross street. I think Stewart's Broadway retail store. The church-building is a substantial-looking structure, but has nothing in its appearance to rivet the attention of the passer-by.

The church-yard is quite large, and is surrounded on three sides by streets. These streets seem to have been cut down in recent years. At any rate the level of the church-yard is some three or four feet above the level of the surrounding streets.

Some half-dozen venerable trees stand in the yard.

A considerable part of the ground is covered by family vaults.

These vaults are below the level of the church-yard, and are covered by plain marble slabs set even with the surrounding turf. There are no monuments there; if so, I failed to see them. To get the eminent linen-drapers' vault out of such a vault was no very hard task.

But the mystery is how it could have been done without attracting the observation of people going along the streets, for there are hundreds on the move all night long. That many are inclined to suspect that the section has something to do with the job, but the grounds of suspicion are not very substantial, as far as I have been able to hear.

Anyhow, as a piece of rascally enterprise, it is such a one as New York may be proud of. That's my opinion. Whether it is a commendable one or not, I confess I don't clearly understand.

LOCAL MATTERS.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

ORDINANCES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD—OTHER BUSINESS OF THE TWO BRANCHES, &c., &c.

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The body was called to order by Mr. Cannon, and on his motion, in the absence of Mr. Meredith, Mr. Bass was invited to preside.

Mr. Lipscomb said Mr. Dickerson was detained by sickness.

The Board proceeded to the consideration of the ordinances from the Common Council.

The ordinance to amend the ordinance concerning quarantine was adopted unanimously.

The ordinance to amend the ordinance concerning the Fire Department was read and adopted.

The ordinance to amend the ordinance concerning the sinking fund was rejected.

The ordinance concerning the water-works was adopted.

The ordinance concerning streets was adopted.

The ordinances concerning hacks and prohibiting motion on climbing on vehicles while in motion were passed.

OTHER BUSINESS.

On motion of Mr. Todd, the resolution laid on the table at the last meeting, transferring \$3,000 from the almshouse fund to the street fund, was taken up.

Mr. Wagner moved to amend by striking out \$3,000 and inserting \$1,500.

Mr. Todd moved to insert \$2,000 in lieu of the \$1,500.

Mr. Todd's motion was adopted and the resolution agreed to.

Mr. Cannon presented an ordinance in reference to certificates of debt, &c., which was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Todd presented a resolution appropriating from the contingent fund \$917 to pave with new granite spalls the alley between Fourteenth and Fifteenth and Main and Cary streets. Laid on the table.

Adjournd.

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The body was preceded into the church by the class of young ladies whom he taught in the Sabbath school. Members of the old First Virginia regiment followed the funeral cortege into the church and preceded it as it moved to the cemetery.

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In playing about the hearth the younger of the boys, who was clad in a calico frock, accidentally caught fire, and before assistance could reach him he was so horribly burned that notwithstanding the best medical aid was called in he died from the effects about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

ACCIDENTALLY SHOT HIMSELF.—Mr. A. P. Deitrick, a well-known merchant, and postmaster at Manikintown, Henrico county, while hunting yesterday in Powhatan county, shot himself in the chest about 11 o'clock in the day, and at a late hour last evening was considered to be in a very critical condition. He was leaning on his gun talking to a friend, when from some cause not definitely known it exploded, sending the whole charge into his person.

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THE PENITENTIARY FIRE.

Further Details of the Burning of the Prison-Shops.

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE FIRE—EFFORTS OF THE FIREMEN AND CONVICTS TO SUBDUCE THE FLAMES—DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING BURNED—LOSS IN MACHINERY, STOCK, AND FIXTURES—PERSONAL FIRES THAT HAVE OCCURRED AT THE PENITENTIARY IN PAST YEARS, &c., &c.

The actual loss to the State of Virginia by the fire will, it is believed, be about as follows:

On building totally destroyed.....\$10,000 00  
On machinery, stock of it newly received.....7,977 21  
On stock in and adjacent to cooper-shops.....5,000 00  
On machinery in carpenter, shoe, and iron-shops.....10,400 00  
On stock in shoe-shop.....7,000 00  
On stock in carpenter- and broom-shops.....1,000 00  
Total.....\$41,477 21  
To this must be added the loss of time, &c.

Colonel Swann had just received two cargoes of staves—one from Shenandoah county and one from Grand Rapids, Mich., besides a number from A. L. Sheppard & Co. These were destroyed, and are included in the above estimate of the loss.

As we stated yesterday, none of the convicts seemed to behave well, thanks to the Superintendent's excellent discipline and his oft-repeated caution to the prisoners not to get excited.

At the time of the fire 901 prisoners were in the penitentiary.

The Board of Directors of the penitentiary has as its president, John B. Gray, Esq., Mr. Charles Campbell, and Dr. Charles H. Smith.

One of Colonel Swann's first recommendations to the Board when he took charge of the institution was to form telegraphic communication with the Richmond Fire Department. If he had but been followed in this recommendation, the result might have been very different.

The institution appears to be poorly supplied with fire apparatus. It has a reel and five hundred feet of hose, three plugs, one of which is inaccessible, and all three connected with pipes too small to do much good.

The entire stock in all the penitentiary shops before the fire was valued at \$95,000.

Colonel Swann is warm in his thanks to the firemen and all who aided him yesterday.

FIRES AT THE PENITENTIARY IN PAST YEARS.

From Mr. R. A. Brock we have obtained some interesting facts concerning the fires that have occurred at the penitentiary in past years.

The first was on Friday, the 8th of August, 1829, breaking out a little before 12 o'clock at night. A lengthy account of it appears in the issue of the Richmond Enquirer of the 12th of the same month.

We in preference take a briefer but yet material narrative from the Washington Quarterly Magazine, volume 1, No. 2, April, 1824, as follows:

At the beginning of August [1823] the penitentiary at Richmond was burned down. We have given the account of this calamity as it was transmitted at the time, and are happy to hear that by the energetic exertions of the citizens the mischief is now repaired and the building restored.

The fire took place in the eastern wing of the central building—as is believed by most of those who were in the interior—in a shoe-maker's shop. The sentinel who had remained outside of the eastern side of the building from 10 o'clock most probably gave the first alarm.

THE ALARM RAPIDLY SPREAD through the interior. One of the turnkeys, who when he was awakened the fire had broken out on the roof of the central building, was no larger than his hat.

The first object of the officers was to seize the keys and open the sleeping-rooms of the convicts, who rushed in the interior with the smoke, and were there two or three of the solitary cells not unlocked. The Public Guard rushed to the spot, and when the gate was opened received the convicts, who made not the slightest effort to effect their escape.

The smoke and the fire-engines had reached the spot it was too late to save the house, for the fire had rapidly spread to both its wings by means of the unfortunate central building. The first inquiry of everyone was: "Where are the convicts—are they safe?"

They were just outside of the gate, but as they had not been counted no one could ascertain how many were missing. The fate of the absentees gave rise to the most painful anxiety. It was soon ascertained that a great many were yet in the building—that

SHIRKES AND GRAYS, AND CHIEFS FOR ASSISTANCE

had been heard, and that this was a horrible doom to await even the most abandoned of men. Pity was the predominant feeling, and means were taken by inquiring of those who knew of their location, and by shouting at the windows of their cells, and ascertaining where they were.

Generous and energetic citizens promptly stepped forward to relieve them. The greatest effort was necessary at a window in the second story, which could only be approached by a shed. Several mounted on the shed, and after encountering great fatigue and some danger, a great fire-dampier was thrown down, and the flames driven around them they finally succeeded in loosening the iron-grating of the window, and dragged out a man of color, whose prayers had been pathetically addressed to Heaven for his safety.

Another man was pulled out of a room in the upper part of the building, and a third man was pulled out of a room in the upper part of the building, and a fourth man was pulled out of a room in the upper part of the building.

Not an accident occurred during the awful scene. The heat must have been oppressive if moral causes had not been too strong to permit the bystanders to feel all its effects. Mystery still hangs over the cause of the fire—whether it was produced by accident or design—whose was the hand that laid the mischief. The loss to the Commonwealth is severe. The lowest cost of the property was \$150,000, and the goods and raw materials were probably worth thirty or forty thousand dollars.

Among those who distinguished themselves by their humanitarian exertions on this occasion were

THE LATE CAPTAIN SAMUEL FREEMAN.

who at the time of his death held the position of Superintendent of the Public Buildings of the State of Virginia, and Gilbert Hunt, the honest negro blacksmith, still so favorably recollected by our citizens, not only for his heroism in this instance, but also for daring and most effective service at the ever-memorable battle of the Seven Days.

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